

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

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1. A method for a voice over internet protocol conference bridge among a plurality of user terminals comprising the steps of:

10 originating an internet protocol call using session initiation protocol among the plurality of user terminals;

negotiating by the plurality of user terminals a common bearer format among the plurality of user terminals; and

15 coupling a data input/output of each of the plurality of user terminals to a conference bridge.

2. The method for voice over internet protocol conference bridge as claimed in claim 1, wherein the
20 step of coupling includes the step of coupling the plurality of user terminals to a packet switched conference bridge.

3. The method for a voice over internet protocol conference bridge as claimed in claim 1, wherein said
25 step of negotiating includes the step of finding a least common denominator bearer format among the plurality of user terminals.

30 4. The method for a voice over internet protocol conference bridge as claimed in claim 1, wherein said step of negotiating further includes the step of determining whether the plurality of user terminals support multiple bearer formats.

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negotiating a homogeneous bearer format among the plurality of user terminals which have multiple bearer formats;

canceling the step of coupling the plurality of user terminals.

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each of said plurality of user terminals receiving a bearer format of others of said plurality of user terminals and converting the received bearer format to the native bearer format for use by each of the plurality of user terminals.

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negotiating a common bearer format between
the first party and the second party;



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canceling the step of coupling the plurality of user terminals.

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